Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for detecting a copy of a composite image that includes a first image and a second image that has information embedded in the second image that will change in appearance when the first and second images are scanned or photocopied, comprising the steps of:

scanning the first and second images, wherein the information contained in the second image is produced by the steps of:

representing the information contained in the second image by a two-dimensional bar code;

filtering the two-dimensional bar code with a spread spectrum algorithm that scrambles the information represented by the two-dimensional bar code;

splitting the filter bar code into an equal first part and an equal second part, wherein each first part and each second part will contain an upper portion and a lower portion such that the lower portion of the first part and the upper portion of the second part will be white or empty space; and

detecting a change in appearance of the second image that indicates the first and second images were scanned or photocopied.

2. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the first image is a postal indicia.

3. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the first and second images are printed on a medium.

4. Cancelled.

5. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein :

portions of the area of the second image are larger than portions of the area of the first image.

6. (original) The method claimed in claim 5, wherein portions of the second image have a different shape.

7. (original) The method claimed in claim 6, wherein sharp corners of the second image are removed.

8. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the first image has a specified bar code module size, and the second image has a specified bar code module size that is different from module size specified for the first image.

9. (original) The method claimed in claim 8, wherein the module size of the bar code in the second image is smaller than the module size of the bar code in the first image.

10. (currently amended) The method claimed in claim 9, wherein the ratio of the area of the second image to the perimeter of the [second]first image is increased from the ratio of the second image to the perimeter of the first image before the image is scanned or photocopied.

11. (original) The method claimed in claim 9, further including the steps of:

decoding information in the first and second images; and

determining the amount of information in the original first and second images that is different from the amount of information in the scanned or photocopied first and second images.

12. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, further including the step of:

informing an observer that a copy of the composite image was detected.

13. (original) The method claimed in claim 1, wherein the first image will not change in appearance when the first image is scanned or photocopied.